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## SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION IN EUROPE: A QUANDARY

ANNCR:

WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS -- BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT -- FACE AN INCREASINGLY URGENT QUESTION: SHOULD THEY DEVELOP FURTHER COOPERATION WITH DOMESTIC COMMUNIST PARTIES -- PERHAPS EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN COALITION GOVERNMENTS? NEWS ANALYST RUSSELL DYBVIK HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

IN RECENT YEARS, THE EMERGENCE OF DETENTE -- THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS -- HAS FOSTERED BROADER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE WEST AND COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN EASTERN EUROPE. BUT IT HAS NOT MEANT AN IDEOLOGICAL TRUCE -- AS SOVIET LEADERS FREQUENTLY POINT OUT.

THIS FACT IS AT THE HEART OF THE CURRENT QUANDARY FACING WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS. AT A RECENT TWO-DAY MEETING IN DENMARK, THEY DID LITTLE TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION WITH DOMESTIC COMMUNIST PARTIES.

THE PROBLEM IS NEITHER SIMPLE NOR CLEAR-CUT.

THE TWO LARGEST NON-RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE WORLD ARE FOUND IN FRANCE AND ITALY. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MAY BECOME THE NATION'S STRONGEST SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

IN FRANCE, SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERAND STRONGLY DEFENDS HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. AND IT IS MISTER MITTERAND

WHO HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST VOCAL PROMOTERS OF INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS.

HOWEVER, AT THE MEETING IN DENMARK, MISTER MITTERAND AND WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT WERE SHARPLY AT ODDS. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT STRONGLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF INCREASED COOPERATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES -- STRESSING THAT ANY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) OR THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET HAS TREATY COMMITMENTS.

AND, WARNS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, DOMESTIC MOVES, SUCH AS INCLUDING COMMUNISTS IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT, MIGHT PREVENT A COUNTRY FROM FULFILLING ITS INTERNATIONAL DUTIES.

THIS ATTITUDE IS SHARED BY THE UNITED STATES. AT A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE, SECRETARY OF STATE (HENRY) KISSINGER SAID: "OUR VIEW IS THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO, (AND) WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN GENERAL." HAVING SAID THAT -- SECRETARY KISSINGER CONTINUED -- IT IS UP TO EACH GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF HOW TO PROCEED.

CONCERN ABOUT NATO IS UNDERSTANDABLE. FROM THE BEGINNING, THE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT DETENTE MUST BE FOUNDED ON A STRONG DEFENSE POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THE WARSAW PACT. COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN A NATO GOVERNMENT COULD RESULT IN DIVERTING MONEY TO OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY -- AT THE EXPENSE OF DEFENSE NEEDS. (OPT) THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IS ALREADY ON RECORD AS SAYING IT WOULD N O T TRY TO HAVE ITALY WITHDRAW FROM NATO -- BUT WOULD WORK TO "OVERCOME" THE NEED FOR BOTH NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT.

(OPT) WHILE SOME WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT YEARS, HAVE VOICED SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM AND BASIC FREEDOMS -- N O N E HAS CATEGORICALLY DENOUNCED THE SOVIET-EAST EUROPEAN TOTALITARIAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. (END OPT)

THE ATTITUDES OF WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS TOWARD THE COMMUNISTS N O W SEEM TO RANGE FROM HESITATION TO OUTRIGHT SUSPICION. BUT THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION H A S BEEN POSED. AND FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, SOCIALISTS WILL N O W SEEK THE FORMULA THAT BEST FITS THEIR OWN TACTICAL NEEDS OF THE MOMENT. MEANWHILE THE QUESTION ITSELF REMAINS UNANSWERED, DIVISIVE AND A POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP.

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